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**ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET
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LAJUANA S. WILCHER
SECRETARY

TO: ALL HORSEMEN AND PRACTICING VETERINARIANS

FROM: Jim Gallagher, Executive Director

DATE: August 2, 2006

SUBJECT: EUTHANIZING OF INJURED HORSES

The Kentucky Horse Racing Authority veterinarian is authorized to determine when a horse has suffered an injury while in the paddock, during the post parade and at the starting gate which necessitates scratching the horse. The extent of an injury to a horse during the running of the race or when pulled up after the wire is handled on a case by case basis depending upon its severity

If a horse is vanned off the track and brought back to the trainer's barn additional time can assist in making a more informed decision in that regard. Once a horse is removed from the van and is in the trainer's barn, the duties of the Authority veterinarian are fulfilled. If thereafter, a determination is made to euthanize the horse that responsibility falls upon the trainer, in consultation with his/her private practitioner.